

REMARKS

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the Application and requests re-examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

The rejection of claims 6 – 10 as last submitted is now in view of JP 10-213077 (equivalent to US 6,116,866) or by Becker et al (US 5,275,541).

With regard to JP 10-213077, the Examiner says that this specification discloses a tube (9) above the port (3). In fact, closer examination of the description of JP 10-213077 makes it clear that this "tube" is merely a discharge line.

In the Becker et al cited patent, the mentioned tube is presently merely to connect the mentioned port to the discharge chamber.

In order to distinguish over prior art tubes which are basically discharge lines, the new claim 11 has been restricted to specify that the applicant's tube is attached to the valve plate 7 and that it extends vertically into a suction gas chamber. Thus the applicant's tube 17 is now clearly distinguished from the tubes in JP 10-213077 and Becker et al US 5,275,541. Clearly JP 10-213077 and Becker et al US 5,275,541 do not disclose or suggest the applicant's tube for the applicant's purpose.

The Applicant relies for patentability of new Claims 12 – 15 on the fact that these claims include all of the features of new Claim 11, which claim is believed to be allowable for the reasons given above.

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Each of the Examiner's rejections has been addressed or traversed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason this RESPONSE is found to be INCOMPLETE, or if at any time it appears that a TELEPHONE CONFERENCE with Counsel would help advance prosecution, please telephone the undersigned or one of his associates, collect in Waltham, Massachusetts, at (781) 890-5678.

Respectfully submitted,



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